

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (presently amended) A safety syringe sealing system, the system comprising:  
a safety syringe having a barrel, a needle, a plunger and a needle sheath, wherein the needle sheath is movable relative to the barrel and the needle between a retracted position where the needle is exposed, to an extended position where the needle is protected, the needle sheath ~~defining~~ having an open end defined therein; and  
a plug that is engageable with the needle sheath at the open end thereof when the needle sheath is in the extended position.
2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the needle sheath is tubular.
3. (presently amended) The system of claim 2~~1~~, wherein the ~~tubular~~-needle sheath, when in the extended position, is locked and prevented from returning to the retracted position.
4. (presently amended) The system of claim 2~~1~~, wherein the ~~tubular~~-needle sheath is ~~capable of sliding longitudinally between the retracted position and the extended position and may be~~ includes means for rotated-rotating the needle sheath about the barrel of the safety syringe to lock the ~~tubular~~-needle sheath in the extended position.
5. (presently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the plug includes at least one receptacle to ~~engage an outer circumference~~ accommodate a portion of the needle sheath.
6. (presently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the plug includes ~~a cylindrical portion having~~ at least one flange that extends radially outward therefrom the ~~cylindrical portion to~~ and that engage-contacts an inner ~~circumference~~ surface of the needle sheath when the plug is engaged with the needle sheath.

7. (presently amended) ~~A safety syringe sealing~~The system, the system comprising of claim 1, further comprising:

~~a safety syringe having a barrel, a needle, a plunger and a needle sheath, wherein the needle sheath is movable between a retracted position where the needle is exposed, to an extended position where the needle is protected and the needle sheath defining an open end;~~

~~a plug that is engageable with the needle sheath when the needle sheath is in the extended position; and~~

a pharmaceutical pig having a base and a cap, the base and cap each having a hollow center section that is capable of ~~receiving~~accommodating a portion of the safety syringe.

8-12. (not entered)

13. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the base and cap of the pharmaceutical pig interact to seal the safety syringe within the pharmaceutical pig.

14. (presently amended) ~~A method for sealing of using~~a safety syringe system, the method comprising:

~~sliding~~moving a needle sheath of a safety syringe from a retracted position where a needle of the safety syringe is exposed, to an extended position where the needle is protected, the needle sheath ~~defining~~having an open end defined therein; and

~~engaging a plugging with~~the open end of the needle sheath when the needle sheath is in the extended position.

15. (presently amended) The method of claim 14, ~~further including locking the needle sheath, having a tubular shape, when the needle sheath is in the extended position to~~wherein the moving of the needle sheath includes preventing the needle sheath from returning to the retracted position ~~after the needle sheath is slid from the retracted position to the extended position.~~

16. (presently amended) ~~A~~The method for sealing a safety syringe comprising of claim 14, wherein the plugging of the open end of the needle sheath includes

~~sliding a needle sheath from a retracted position where a needle is exposed, to an extended position where the needle is protected, the needle sheath defining an open end; and~~  
engaging a plug around an outer circumference of the needle sheath proximate the open end ~~thereof the needle sheath~~ when the needle sheath is in the extended position.

17. (not entered)

18. (presently amended) ~~A The method for plugging a safety syringe comprising of claim~~  
14, wherein the plugging of the open end of the needle sheath includes

~~sliding a tubular needle sheath from a retracted position where a needle is exposed, to an extended position where the needle is protected, the tubular needle sheath defining an open end;~~

~~locking the tubular needle sheath into the extended position; and~~  
engaging a plug, having a cylindrical portion and at least one flange extending radially therefrom, with the open end of the needle sheath ~~in the extended position.~~

19. (presently amended) ~~A The method for plugging a safety syringe comprising:~~

~~sliding a tubular needle sheath from a retracted position where a needle is exposed, to an extended position where the needle is protected, the tubular needle sheath defining an open end;~~

~~locking the tubular needle sheath into the extended position; and of claim 14,~~  
wherein the plugging of the open end of the needle sheath includes

engaging a plug, having at least one u-shaped receptacle, with an outside circumference of the needle sheath ~~in the extended position.~~

20. (presently amended) A method ~~for sealing of using~~ a safety syringe system, the method comprising:

inserting a plug in a hollow center section of a base of a pharmaceutical pig having a cap;

~~sliding moving~~ a needle sheath of a safety syringe from a retracted position where a needle of the safety syringe is exposed to an extended position where the needle is protected,

the needle sheath ~~defining having~~ an open end defined therein through which the needle passes during the moving of the needle sheath from the retracted position to the extended position;

inserting the safety syringe ~~with the needle sheath~~ into the hollow center section of the base of the pharmaceutical pig; ~~and, wherein the inserting of the safety syringe includes~~  
engaging the sheath plug in the pharmaceutical pig with open end of the needle sheath at the open end thereof to plug the open end of the needle sheath, the needle sheath being  
in the extended position during the engaging of the sheath plug with the needle sheath.

21. (presently amended) The method of claim 20, further including locking the needle sheath, ~~having a tubular shape~~, when the needle sheath is in the extended position to prevent the ~~tubular~~ needle sheath from returning to the retracted position ~~after the needle sheath is slid from the retracted position to~~ from the extended position.

22. (presently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the locking of the needle sheath ~~further~~ includes rotating the needle sheath about the barrel of the safety syringe.

23. (presently amended) The method of claim 22, ~~wherein the inserting the safety syringe with the needle sheath into the hollow center section of the base of the pharmaceutical pig further includes comprising~~ sealing the base and a cap of the pharmaceutical pig together to contain the safety syringe within the pharmaceutical pig.

24. (presently amended) ~~A~~ The method for sealing a safety syringe comprising of claim 20,  
wherein

~~inserting a plug in a hollow center section of a base of a pharmaceutical pig~~  
~~having a cap;~~

~~sliding a needle sheath from a retracted position to an extended position where the~~  
~~needle is protected, the needle sheath defining an open end;~~

~~inserting the safety syringe with the needle sheath into the hollow center section~~  
~~of the base of the pharmaceutical pig; and~~

the engaging of the sheath plug with the needle sheath includes engaging the  
sheath plug with an outside circumference of the needle sheath in the extended position.

25-31. (not entered)

32. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the engaging of the sheath plug with the needle sheath includes contacting the needle sheath with at least one flange that extends radially from the sheath plug.

33. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the sheath plug includes at least one u-shaped receptacle.